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Golden, Colorado -- Groundbreaking commenced today for construction of a system to remove chemical contaminants from groundwater at the 881 Hillside Area, a high priority cleanup site at the Rocky Flats Plant.

The action follows Environmental Protection Agency and Colorado Department of Health approval of an Interim Measures/Interim Remedial Action Plan for the site. The plan underwent public review and comment in October and November, 1989.

The interim action involves construction of a trench system at the base of Hillside 881 to intercept groundwater contaminated with organic chemicals. From the trench, the water will be pumped to a surface treatment system where ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide will destroy organic contaminants. Ion exchange resins will remove metal compounds, including uranium.

"Construction of this system initiates our first major groundwater cleanup initiative," says Kirk McKinley, Environmental Restoration Director for EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc., the plant operating contractor. "The 881 Hillside is our highest priority cleanup site."

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ADMIN RECORD

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